Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Fidel Castro Receives Brazilian Governor

FL161659 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night hosted a reception for Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia who is visiting our country. Accompanying the official from Brazil's most industrialized state was his wife and a delegation of deputies, officials, and journalists. The journalists traveled especially to report on the governor's sojourn in Cuba in the first flight inaugurating air traffic between the two countries. During the reception, Fidel chatted informally for a moment with the Brazilian journalists.

[Begin recording] [Castro] And how were you able to find Cuba? It's so small. Did you find it here in the Caribbean without any problem? [laughter]

[Journalist] Not a very rich country but one with dignity.

[Castro] Ah, good.

[Journalist] And a country with a great heart and a great leader.

[Castro] Thank you. I can't find words to reciprocate your kindness. [End recording]

Cabrisas Meets With Tanzanian Prime Minister

FL152351 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2056 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Joseph Warioba, prime minister and first vice president of the Tanzanian Government, today received in (La Rouche) Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas in a meeting described by Tanzanian media as being fraternal.

Cabrisas gave details of the advancements made on the 1988-89 bilateral cooperation agreement, which was signed at the eighth session of the Cuba-Tanzania corporation [as heard]. In addition, Cabrisas spoke with the government leader on the preparations for the signing of a bilateral, 5-year trade agreement and a 1988 trade protocol for trade-off products. The two parties evaluated the aspects of bilateral economic, scientific-technical, and trade cooperation, taking into consideration the criteria for cooperation.

Trade Agreement Signed

FL170022 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Cuba and Tanzania have signed in Dar es Salaam a 5-year bilateral trade agreement and a 1988 trade protocol based on the trade-off system.

According to the agreement signed by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuba will export to Tanzania sugar, salt, rum, medicine, tobacco, agricultural instruments, electrical appliances, sports equipment, and educational material.

Tanzania will export to Cuba beans, hard wood, mimosa extract, and other agricultural merchandise.

Havana PCC Discusses Handicapped Training

FL111450 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 4 Dec 87

["Highlights" of the Havana Province PCC Assessment meeting presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana on 27-29 November—delegates identified by caption]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Eduardo Bernabe Ordaz] Commander, we are building a polyclinic similar to the ones built in the first plan. The first polyclinics have a 6 by 8 [not further specified] area within the building, whereas, we are planning to build a 12 by 6 room that will be attached to the polyclinic.

[Castro] This is near the polyclinic?

[Ordaz] In the yard. We changed the plans of the building somewhat and we left some space to build this room. We had no idea of what the future plans would be, but the minister could visit the area and equip it. This is a 6 by 8 [as heard] room with its own bathroom built with the specifications of a physiotherapy room.

[Castro] But you can't exercise there, can you?

[Ordaz] No.

[Castro] We would need at least 100 square meters for that.

[Ordaz] Yes, but we built this room and later we will build another one which will be 14 by 6 or 7. This one will be built in the yard.

[Castro] Where are you working? In Calabazar?

[Ordaz] Yes, in Calabazar.

[Castro] Where was the old polyclinic located?

[Ordaz] Two or three blocks from the new polyclinic. It was located in an old, run-down house. The new polyclinic is coming along nicely. We have completed our work by 60 or 70 percent. We began work behind schedule.

[Castro] Ordaz, when did you start working there?

[Ordaz] In June. We were scheduled to begin in January but we did not get the blueprints on time.

[Castro] How long does it take to build a polyclinic?

[Ordaz] We can do one of those polyclinics in about a year. Had we started the work in January we would have inaugurated this one in December. However, since we started in June we are planning its inauguration in February or March.

[Castro] How many men have worked on the project?

[Ordaz] We have 17 workers and 30 patients.

[Castro] How many men?

[Ordaz] Seventeen.

[Castro] And 30 patients?

[Ordaz] We have 17 workers; the chief, his assistant, 15 workers, and 30 patients.

[Castro] Approximately 40 persons.

[Ordaz] Approximately 40 persons. The site has never been visited, you can come and see what is being done.

[Castro] How many hours a day are you working?

[Ordaz] We are working 10 to 12 hours a day, and we also work on Sundays.

[Castro] On Sundays also.

[Ordaz] I wish you could visit the site, Commander...

[Castro interrupts] I will, for sure...

[Ordaz interrupts] You will see what we have done...

[Castro interrupts] That polyclinic is one of the ones that is...

[Ordaz interrupts] We have made several changes; we have made several changes to the original blueprints.

[Castro] And what is your opinion of the work?

[Ordaz] Very good, very good.

[Castro] What a pity that we did not have this experience...

[Ordaz interrupts] There is one thing we changed. The blueprints included a very small inner patio. It was useless because it was only 4 meters wide. You could do nothing there, so we decided to put that outside. We changed the entrance also.

[Hector Acosta] From the human and revolutionary viewpoint, we find the increased attention and participation of the political and mass organizations, under the leadership of the party, in our activities and in the solution of our problems has been the most important and encouraging aspect. Our incorporation into the productive activities, something that has allowed us to feel like active and effective builders of our socialist society, has been of great importance for us. [passage omitted]

Dear commander, we wish to present you with this album full of photographs showing the handicapped working in their shops.

[Castro] I have a question for you, Acosta. You mentioned 14 shops. How many shops?

[Acosta] Fourteen.

[Castro] How many people are working in these shops?

[Acosta] Three hundred and eighty.

[Castro] How many?

[Acosta] Three hundred and eighty.

[Castro] This was the result of the meeting?

[Acosta] Pardon me?

[Castro] This came after the congress?

[Acosta] Yes, after the congress.

[Castro] How long did it take them to build those shops?

[Acosta] They were started in August.

[Castro] Only a few months.

[Acosta] In a very short time.

[Castro] That is a praiseworthy job.

[Acosta] They chose several sites and repaired them.

[Castro] Yes. And there are 380 comrades working there?

What are you producing?

[Acosta] Various items: purses, items for parties, pinatas, cases for eyeglasses, wallets, card holders, dolls, etcetera. We brought a sample to show the Olof Pantoja School delegates here.

[Castro] Are these shops far from your homes?

[Acosta] The various cities are trying to build the shops near our homes. There are times when this is impossible, but this has been [words indistinct] and a few days ago the administrators were telling me the comrades are never late for work and they are very responsible workers. [Words indistinct] always get to work on time.

[Castro] Are more shops going to be built?

[Acosta] Yes.

[Castro] The more shops we build, the closer they will be to your homes.

[Acosta] Yes.

[Castro] How do you get to work? What kind of handicaps do the people at these centers have?

[Acosta] It depends: some use wheelchairs; others, canes or crutches. The blind are helped by others. The deaf have the least problems. This is no problem; their desire and need to work compensates for...

[Castro interrupts] What kind of work does a blind person do?

[Acosta] Crafts. Sometimes assembly lines are formed. Part of the work is done by the blind person and the physically impaired does the finishing work.

[Castro] What about their wages?

[Acosta] There is a 3-month training period. Right now they receive 106 pesos; we are studying the kind of wages they should receive.

[Castro] Aside from being helped economically, this must have had an excellent psychological effect; am I correct?

[Acosta] Commander, I would say this has been an important move. Recently we inaugurated a shop in Regla Municipality and I saw a 34-year-old comrade who told me the residents were surprised to see how well he looked and they praised the work done by the doctors. But he told him it was not the doctors' work, but the fact he had started working. That comrade has changed completely. Never before had he felt useful. [applause]

[Castro] How many people can be involved in this type of activity?

[Delegate] [Words indistinct] (?650) handicapped.

[Castro] How many?

[Delegate] More than 500 in Havana.

[Castro] More than 500 handicapped who needed a job badly.

[Delegate] Yes. For one reason or another, these people had never been employed.

[Castro] Most of them are working at these shops, but are there still some who are unemployed?

[Delegate] Most are already employed. There are some cities where we will have to build more shops because we don't have enough of them, or because the shop is already too small.

[Castro] Do you think approximately 600 handicapped can be employed?

[Delegate] Between 600 and 700 handicapped people.

[Castro] Do they feel better working in these shops than they do at home?

[Delegate] There is no doubt about this. They feel they are part of the society; they share the same interests and ideas. This is very important.

[Castro] How is the wheelchair plan coming along? I heard you say you wanted more...

[Delegate interrupts] We have heard nothing about the wheelchair plan. Not too much time has passed.

[Castro] I think you mentioned wheelchairs for the handicapped who are involved in sports.

[Delegate] That type of wheelchair is very important.

[Castro] You were also talking about a stronger chair with rubber wheels.

[Delegate] Yes, the rubber wheels are much more comfortable.

[Castro] Yes. I think the minister made notes of this. We could ask him if he has not forgotten about this. Is he around here?

[Lezcano] He just stepped out.

[Castro] What a coincidence. Who is around here? Ignacio, [Ignacio Sanchez, vice minister of the Ministry of the Steelworking Industry] do you have any information regarding the plan we agreed on during the congress?

[Sanchez] We are working on this. After the congress we began checking on the equipment available. The work is going nicely and in 1988 we plan to build the wheelchairs you were talking about.

[Castro] Thank you. [applause]

[Lezcano] We wish to hear about the experiences at a special school; therefore, we will give the floor to Comrade Francisco Sanchez, director of the Anton Macaren Special School.

[Sanchez] Our school is for students who have a behaivor problem. To give you an idea of what we do I will give you some information.

We have 210 students enrolled at the schools; 9 of these students have a father and a mother; 139 students live with their mothers; 17 live with their fathers; 19 live with guardians; and 28 don't have a home. Socially speaking, we have to say education is health and health is education. Our personnel is composed of a group of teachers who, if we were to speak of heart, we would have to say they are more heart than teacher. They are totally dedicated to their teaching and psychological activities. [passage omitted]

[Castro] What do you teach the students?

[Sanchez] There is a group which in the future will learn to be masons, carpenters, and plumbers. We are currently preparing them for life; I don't know if you understand what I am trying to say, but we are teaching them to wash, iron...[leaves thought incomplete] Commander, there are some students who spent 3 and 4 months in the same clothes; they never ate rice, beans, or meat. We have students who have...[leaves thought incomplete] They had no good habits. Taking a shower was a real tragedy for some of them. Now the teachers demand that everyone take a shower.

[Castro] How many do you graduate each year?

[Sanchez] Between 40 and 45 students.

[Castro] And every year you enroll a similar number?

[Sanchez] Yes. However, we are going to expand...

[Castro interrupts] How many have graduated since you have been at the school? How many years have you been there? Ten years?

[Sanchez] Ten years.

[Castro] How many students have graduated?

[Sanchez] Approximately 356 students.

[Castro] What have you heard about those boys?

[Sanchez] I have heard encouraging reports. Our center has been improving its system—we have been closing ranks—and today we have two students who are internationalists; one is a member of a support brigade, he is a plumber, and the other one is a soldier. I know what many former students are doing because our school, even though the students graduated 7 or 8 years ago, is still visited by many of them. Not a single day goes by without a visit from some of them. Some even come to talk about their problems and ask for help in solving them. We also receive letters from our former students.

[Castro] And, in general, the news you get from the boys is good?

[Sanchez] Very good.

[Castro] I have been thinking about visiting the school, but I have not had a chance. Lezcano did visit the school and he told me many things about it. I know the school has been highly praised. Therefore, please tell your students this assembly is very proud of their success; give them our greetings; and I also think the assembly should congratulate the director of this school. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Lezcano] Comrades, we have invited the outstanding workers from various branches and sectors. Because of the excellent work they have done we felt they should also be here today. Among this group of outstanding workers we must mention two women, two comrades, two grandmotners, who have done a great job. I am speaking of Juana Alonso Gutierrez, a 76-year-old woman, [applause] and Petronila Rodriguez whom we all call Petra [applause] who has lived 75 beautiful years. Petra, after her regular working hours, did volunteer work in order to win the 40-hour bonus—the truth is she did not work 40 but 95 hours of volunteer work. [applause]

[Castro] Ask the grandmothers whether they would like to say a few words.

[Lezcano] Both of you, receive a great big kiss from all of us, and if you wish to say a few words...

[Alonso interrupts] I have been a volunteer grandmother at the David Valdes day-carecenter, Zone 23, Vedado, 19th Street. I work from 0800 to 1000. I am very happy with all my comrades, especially with Commander Fidel Castro who has behaved very nicely with me. [laughter] [applause] I am the day-care center's grandmother; I am the grandmother of men, women, and I am also Fidel Castro's grandmother, Commander Fidel Castro's grandmother. [laughter, applause]

[Lezcano] Petra, would you like to say [words indistinct].

[Rodriguez] I would rather say nothing, but I will say: Thank you to all the comrades who have honored me by allowing me to attend this great meeting with the Commander in Chief. You [Alonso] may be the commander's grandmother, but I am his black mother. [laughter] [applause]

Raul Castro Visits 50th Division Army Unit

FL161603 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz visited the great unit of the Eastern Army known as the 50th Division during his 8th day of activities in Santiago de Cuba Province. Raul was accompanied by PCC Politburo members Vilma Espin and Esteban Lazo. The FAR minister inspected weapons and equipment during his tour. Subsequently he addressed the soldiers, reminding them this was the first unit of its kind established after the triumph of the revolution. Raul made reference to the rich history of the unit which today holds the Antonio Maceo Order, and he congratulated his soldiers for their most recent successes in combat readiness and political preparation. Raul said today we can be sure if we are attacked, our soldiers will rise from deep in the earth's womb to defeat the enemy.

Continues Tour of Santiago

FL161553 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1234 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] In his 6th day in Santiago de Cuba, Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC and minister of the FAR, toured the heroic city accompanied by Vilma Espin and Esteban Lazo, members of the PCC Politburo.

At the Saturnino Lora Provincial Hospital's cardiology center, Hector del Cueto, chief of cardiovascular surgery, explained to the visitors the layout of the important facility. Castro talked to several children at the child and psychological studies section's game room. The children are about to undergo surgery.

[Begin recording]

[Castro] You are not scared, are you? Do the doctors, nurses, and the rest of the kids treat you well?

[Child] Yes.

[Castro] How often does your mother come to see you? Every day?

[Child] Yes.

[Castro] They do not stay with you here?

[Staff member] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] They sleep with you here? Oh, then there is no problem. How old are you?

[Staff member] How old are you?

[Castro] About six, five.

[Staff member] Six.

[Castro] I am going to give you these pens. Note that they have my initials. [Castro gives children pens] I hope everything goes well. Write to me when you leave the hospital. Write to me and tell me how it went. Give me a little kiss. [Castro kisses children] Until next time. [end recording]

After writing on the guest book: "Carry on Santiago de Cuba cardiology center; do not stop until we are a medical power", he greeted some workers and urged them to continue saving lives.

At the Jose Marti urban center, he expressed interest in the construction of protection projects. For their part, children and people in general gave the FAR minister and those accompanying him a cordial welcome.

[Begin recording] [Castro, seen chatting with children and adults in the streets] What is your name?

[Child] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Yornely. And you?

[Second child] Leonel.

[Castro] Leonel. Do you go to school? What grade are you in?

[Second child] Seventh.

[Castro] What are you going to study when you grow up?

[Second child] A militant.

[Castro] You can... [laughter] No, it is all right. You want to be a militant and what else?

[Second child] I aspire to be a great militant like Fidel Castro.

[Castro] Lots of success in that difficult career. See you. Are you good students?

[Children] Yes!

[Castro] Then things are going well here.

[Adult] No problems.

[Castro] A few need to be solved. We need to try to build better looking buildings by using another system and different plans. Some parks need to be built. Are you going to help with whatever we do here?

[Children] Yes.

[Castro] The same way you did with those holes there?

[Children] Yes.

[Castro] We will have the Fourth PCC Congress in 1990 if the people from Santiago de Cuba work well.

[Adult] We are going to work for that.

[Castro] I already saw the great theater you are going to have, the hotel you are going to have, and many other things. You do not need to wait for a Moncada or a congress. You have to work every day. The government has to work well under the leadership of the party. You have to support all projects. I see that Santiago is in good spirits. Now I can tell Fidel of that neighborhood.

[Adults] We are going to fulfill them.

[Castro] You are going to fulfill them.

[Adults] We are going to respond well.

[Child] I am waiting for the 26th and want to earn the model status in January. [end recording]

They later visited an experimental vertical hydroponic station which is being developed by the MININT [Interior Ministry] in Santiago de Cuba in coordination with the province's Agriculture Ministry. They were briefed on the advantages of this method which is more productive than the traditional one, that is, the horizontal method.

The second secretary of the party also examined the stage of the airport and runway expansion projects, especially those related with the area known as Hoyo de Aguadores. The land is hollow there and it is being packed in with thousands of tons of soil so that big and heavy aircrafts can land on the runway in 1990. The important project should be ready by that time. Raul showed interest in other projects under construction here and those planned for next year as well as the perspectives of communications for the Abel Santamaria urban center which is being built in southeastern Santiago de Cuba. The city's future urban development plans were explained to Castro in another part of his tour.

Antigua and Barbuda

Ministers, Union Leader Report Plot

FL161643 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Dec 15, CANA—Four Antiguan cabinet ministers and a trade unionist on Tuesday reported to police commissioner, Wright George, an alleged plot to assassinate them. In a letter to George, the ministers said they have been reliably informed by a former Caribbean parliamentarian that someone from outside the Caribbean "has been busy trying to recruit a 'hit man' to kill them. The five are Education Minister Reuben Harris, Agriculture Minister Hilroy Humphreys, Public Utilities Minister Robin Yearwood, Minister Responsible for Trade Hugh Marshall and the general secretary of the government-aligned Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) Robin Bascus.

"The matter was reported to the prime minister in Cabinet...but we consider the prime minister's reply to be far too casual and, therefore, now make a formal report to you, in the hope that you will use your good offices to have the matter dealt with in an appropriate manner," the ministers said in a letter to the commissioner.

The parliamentarians and Bascus have been pressing for the sacking of public works minister, Vere Bird Jr. over alleged misconduct in office.

Dominican Republic

Government Waits for Haitian Response

FL161619 Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The Dominican Government is waiting for Haiti's National Government Council to respond to a protest note on the death of cameraman Carlos Grullon which took place during the neighboring country's aborted elections. Foreign Minister Donald Reid Cabral reported the government protest was made through the Dominican ambassador to Haiti and the Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

[Begin Reid Cabral recording] The protest note was sent at the beginning of the week and we have not yet received a response. I did see a condolence note from the Haitian Foreign Ministry as I was coming down here. This is not a response to our note but it is a condolence note related to the incident. I have not read it yet because it was just delivered to me. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Reid Cabral said in the note he is asking the Haitian Government to investigate the events and for those responsible for the death of cameraman Carlos Grullon to be sanctioned.

Haiti

Provisional Electoral Council Drafts Decree

FL162318 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The new members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] yesterday began work on the new electoral decree which is to be published Friday, according to the calendar announced by the National Government Council [CNG] on 9 December 1987.

One of the members told us yesterday morning that an executive committee had been formed within the new CEP, and that attorney Jean Gilbert was its chairman.

Hubert de Ronceray Reaffirms Candidacy

FL162336 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] We have learned that Mr Hubert de Ronceray, who is considered one of Haiti's major presidential candidates, announced yesterday he and his party, the Mobilization for National Development [MDN], will participate in the coming general elections in Haiti, which are officially scheduled for next 17 January.

The MDN is going to participate in the elections to prevent Haiti from falling into the hands of another dictator, he said. De Ronceray is a sociologist and at one time was a minister under Jean-Claude Duvalier. He later went over to the opposition.

The former Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] had accepted his candidacy. We remind you the Haitian Government dissolved that CEP last 29 November. The Haitian people are tired of being pulled by politicians to the left, the right, and every other direction. The Haitian people have had enough of being tossed around economically and of living in the stagnation of a society brought about by the suicidal strikes that have occurred in Haiti, said De Ronceray.

Despite attacks, the presidential candidate said his party is still the only group able to bridge the gap between absolute power, which is the inheritance of a former system, and [words indistinct] a dictatorship of the proletariat. [passage omitted]

Correspondent's Home Searched by Soldiers

FL162326 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The residence of the correspondent in Cap-Haitien of the leftist periodical HAITI-PROGRES was searched Monday afternoon by a group of 30 soldiers and 3 officers. Following the search, the correspondent's mother fell ill, reports the periodical's administrator, who protested the search. Here is Jean-Marie Salvant with further details:

News from the north of Haiti: Yesterday at approximately 1500 the police, accompanied by a justice of the peace, conducted some searches in Cap-Haitien.

They searched the (Paquet) residence, on Rue 7-H, where the police, accompanied by the justice of the peace, searched the house. It has been reported that the police were looking for weapons.

They also went to the (Vieux) residence. One arrest was reportedly made, but we do not yet know who was arrested. We will continue to seek information, and in a future newscast, we will give Radio Metropole listeners further details.

From Cap-Haitien, this is Jean-Marie Salvant for Radio Metropole. Thank you.

Dominican Leftists To Launch Campaign

FL162243 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] An important movement in favor of democracy and freedom in Haiti will be launched very soon by the Socialist International, which is composed of the Social Democratic parties of Central America, Europe, and Africa.

According to a communique from the Dominican Revolutionary Party, actions in favor of Haiti will be coordinated by Mr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the Latin-American and Caribbean Committee (?of) the Socialist International. [passage omitted]

Catholic School Officials State Position

FL162309 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] In connection with the closing of certain schools, the administration of Saint Louis de Gonzague School [the largest and most prestigious Catholic boys school in Port-au-Prince] has written to the parents of its students, setting forth its position.

School authorities explain: You are surely surprised to see the school continuing to function despite the communique from the Haitian Conference of Clergymen. This in no way means we are indifferent to what is going on in the country or that we disagree profoundly with the popular protest movement.

The school authorities feel, however, that despite the fact the situation is serious, the very important decision to close schools indefinitely cannot be made without taking into account the lives of those directly concerned—the parents and teachers.

A questionnaire will be sent to parents today so they can state their position on this matter.

In conclusion, the administration advises the parents will be informed very soon of the poll results and of the decisions arising from this poll.

Jeremie Rules Out Election Participation

FL162218 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87

[By Jeremie correspondent (Ertho Zamor), in Creole]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] None of the people who were candidates for senator, deputy, or magistrate for the Jeremie area have said anything. Will they participate in elections or not? Up to the present, the only candidate who has taken a stand is Mr (Justin Mesil), a former

member of the Constitutional Assembly who was going to run for deputy. He has stated he is against the upcoming elections and will not participate.

Will the people of Jeremie participate in the 17 January elections? The young progressives of Jeremie say they will not. The committee of small, grass roots churches says they will not participate. The neighborhood committees have said the same.

However, there are many other equally important sectors that have not yet said a word about this. [passage omitted]

Caribbean Group Asks CEP Be Reinstated

FL161656 Bridgetown CANA in English 2159 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 15, CANA—Caribbean Rights, the network of six human rights organisations of the region, has called for the reinstatement of the Provisional Electoral Council dismissed by Haiti's provisional Government. In a statement on Tuesday, the group said that all governments and regional and international agencies interested in peace and democracy in Haiti have an obligation to insist on the re-instatement of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) that has been unconstitutionally disbanded by General Henri Namphy's temporary Governing National Council (CNG).

Declaring its firm opposition to any attempt to clothe the Namphy regime with legitimacy for the conduct of new elections, Caribbean Rights said that it fully supports the refusal by legitimate and representative civic and religious groups in Haiti not to nominate members for a CNG-controlled electoral council.

Caribbean Rights, representing national human rights bodies in Jamaica, Guyana, Puerto Rico, Haiti, St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bahamas, also expressed strong reservations against the recent visit to Haiti by a group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders (CCL), headed by Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica.

The regional umbrella organisation, which participated in a recent fact-finding mission to Haiti and subsequently also sponsored an observer mission for the November 29 elections which were aborted, noted with disgust, the continuing failure of Caricom (Caribbean Community) to speak with any measure of unity against the CNG's determination not to permit an electoral process in Haiti, the outcome of which it cannot control.

St Christopher and Nevis

NRP Wins Elections, Loses One Assembly Seat

FL152118 Bridgetown CANA in English 1734 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Charlestown, Nevis, Dec 15, CANA—The Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) has been given a mandate to govern the affairs of Nevis for another term. The party however lost one of the five elected seats in the island assembly.

The lone opposition seat went to Vance Amory, leader of the Concerned Citizens Movement.

Nevisians who followed the elections on state-owned Radio ZIZ were kept up all night because of a delay in ballot counting blamed on problems in transporting the ballots from the polling to counting stations. First results, expected around eight o'clock, did not begin coming in until midnight, and the counting was not completed until Tuesday morning.

Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds, whose Peoples Action Movement (PAM) together with the NRP forms the coalition government of the St Kitts/Nevis Federation, responded quickly to the results.

In a congratulatory message to NRP leader and premier of Nevis Simeon Daniel, Simmonds said he looked forward to continuing the work which they started in 1980, to develop our twin island federation and bring a better quality of life to all of our people.

The new members of the Nevis Island Administration were being sworn in on Tuesday, which was declared a public holiday in the 36 square mile island.

Trinidad and Tobago

People's National Movement Elects Officers

FL150235 Bridgetown CANA in English 1706 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 14, CANA—The main opposition People's National Movement (PNM) on Sunday night voted in a new face executive in line with the candidates put forward by new political leader Patrick Manning. All of the candidates known as "Manning's team" were elected in the first in-house polls in two years.

The PNM, which ruled the country for thirty years before its first electoral defeat one year ago, is undergoing a process of restructuring. The three new deputy political leaders are relative unknowns: Senator Dr. Keith Rowley (party and elections) and Senator Augustus Ramrekersingh (legislative) and Former Education Minister Marilyn Gordon (policy).

The only fall-out during the session was an attempted resignation by one of the three PNM parliamentarians—Muriel Donawa-Mc Davidson—who also wept publicly on hearing that Gordon was about to seek nomination as lady vice chairman of the party. After what officials said was a fit of temper which ended in her aborted attempt to submit her resignation, officials arrived to say Gordon, who was later named by Manning as deputy leader, would not contest the post.

Donawa-Mc Davidson, who refused to talk to reporters about the incident, stating she was bad like a crab, spent the rest of the convention in the audience instead of on stage with the other two PNM MP's [members of parliament].

Those elected to office reflected Manning's choice of candidates put forward in a way some veteran officials of the party objected to as Manning's new style of endorsement replacing the style of his two predecessors in letting elections take their course.

Manning was elected unopposed Saturday as the PNM's third political leader following one-term leader George Chambers and the party founder and Trinidad and Tobago's first Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams.

The winning slate included the party's first Hindu chairman, engineer and private sector manager, Dr. Lenny Saith, who beat former national security minister, Overand Padmore, to the post of chairman left vacant by the retirement of long-standing holder Frances Prevatt.

Prevatt retired after last year's hectic general election campaign in which almost the entire PNM administration, including Prime Minister Chambers, lost their seats. The other PNM MP to win a seat in Parliament, Morris Marshall, on Sunday night won the only PNM paid post—of party general secretary.

Marshall beat incumbent, Alvan Quamina, but Manning, speaking later in an interview with the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), denied that the elections reflected the removal of the PNM old guard.

There is no such thing as old guard and new face...as far as I am concerned. The PNM is one political party and the members of the PNM are free to elect whoever they wish to whatever office. They have done so this evening, Manning said.

Other former ministers beaten to posts included Norma Lewis-Phillips, who lost to Jacqueline Timothy for the post of welfare officer. Former attorney general, Russell Martineau, remained in the uncontested party vice chairman post.

The executive also includes: Larry Achong (elections officer), Angela Hamel-Smith (public relations officer), Ruby Atwell-Ferguson (lady vice chairman), former Junior Finance Minister and Attorney Anthony Jacelon (treasurer), and Deodath Ojah-Maharaj (assistant general secretary).

The officers have come to their positions by a democratic process...therefore one can only conclude that it reflects the popular will within the party...the PNM merely comprises of representation of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, Manning said in answer to questions on the more racially mixed PNM executive.

When asked if Trinidad and Tobago was now seeing a more racially mixed PNM, Manning said: That is on its way.

President Discusses New Economic Measures

PA162300 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Message by President Miguel de la Madrid on occasion of the signing of the pact of economic solidarity between the government and the private, peasant, and working sectors; at Los Pinos presidential residence on 15 December—recorded]

[Text] Gentlemen. We are meeting here today to sign a pact of economic solidarity between the government and the leaders of the peasant, working, and private sectors. This pact is the entire Mexican society's response to the economic deterioration the country has been experiencing since mid-October.

Until then, the general consensus was that the country had entered a process of economic recovery and that our future task was to consolidate that recovery and to continue trying to fight inflation.

In mid-October, the Mexican economy fell because of an international profiteering movement; that fall was mainly reflected in the drop of stock markets. In Mexico, that detonator seriously affected economic expectations. We must admit we had the vulnerability of a high inflation rate and at that time the assessment of our internal economic situation reinforced the stock market drop detonator. Seeing that stock markets were no longer a protection barrier for their savings as a hedge against local inflation, people and investors began to place pressure on the dollar market, which was reflected in pressures on prices. In view of those pressures, the Mexican Labor Congress demanded a wage increase.

Since late November, the Mexican Government has been negotiating with various sectors. The government did not choose to unilaterally impose corrective economic measures, but chose to support the necessary revision and changes of economic policy through a process of dialogue and agreement. You know this process well, because you participated in it.

It has been a difficult and arduous process. In this process, each of the sectors presented its interests, demands, and suggestions. In addition to making its own proposals and reaching its own conclusions, the government harmonized the interests of the various sectors of our society.

Today, we reached a pact that entails the adoption of strong, bitter, and painful measures, which imply efforts and sacrifices from all of us. We are not offering a magic cure for our economic problems; we are asking society to make more efforts and sacrifices.

The workers' movement reduced its wage-increase demands. The wage increase agreed upon is not at all what the workers' leaders demanded. They wanted a much larger wage increase. Peasants also made an effort, because they agreed that guaranteed prices will simply remain at their 1987 real value. That represents a restriction on our tendency to increase guaranteed prices regardless of inflation rates to revert the terms of exchange between the rural and the urban areas.

The businessmen are also making an effort and are limiting their interests. The businessmen have accepted a commercial opening policy that implies a huge effort to improve productivity and efficiency to compete on the world market. The businessmen have also agreed to control prices and utilities.

The government has also agreed to restrict its activity. It has agreed to restrict public spending even more; it has agreed to continue controlling the public sector's size and to continue its policy of liquidations, bankruptcies, and the closure or the sale of nonstrategic, nonpriority businesses. The government also finds it difficult to withdraw its own programs because they are aimed at public services, and at broadening the country's physical and industrial infrastructure.

We are all, therefore, making sacrifices. We have limited our plans, and this has affected our own interests. We cannot present this pact as an immediate solution to the problems, but we can present the pact and the program it represents as a great effort by our entire society to achieve a common goal: to avoid falling into a truly hyperinflationary situation which would not only affect the economy but society itself, and would create a problem very difficult to overcome later. This would be an even more difficult problem than paying what it will currently cost us to prevent the hyperinflation, we have seen in other countries.

With this dialogue, with this pact, we have designed a program that adjusts to Mexican economy and society. It would be useless to try to compare this pact and program with plans imposed in other countries. It is not a crash program because the Mexican economy's prices have not been totally frozen. It is also a program that has been agreed upon.

I insist upon that, because I must be very frank. I know the pact has not satisfied anyone, but it represents what we can do with an additional effort, pragmatically speaking. This effort is requested of the entire society.

These are my introductory comments on the pact itself and I will not make a final one. The success of the pact depends on all of us. If one of the sectors fails, beginning with the government itself, the objectives would not be attained. The pact requires discipline and a firm will to fulfill the commitment on the part of Mexican society, the productive sector, and essentially from the government.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister on Plot To Kill Cerezo

PA170147 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Guatemala City 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A source from the Foreign Ministry today reported that eight people are "involved" in the plot to kill Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and to "destabilize the country."

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, who is also the secretary general of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, reported that out of the group of people planning to kill the president, "three have left the country." However, Cabrera did not reveal their destination.

Cabrera, who did not specify whether or not the people involved in the plot are Guatemalans, refused to reveal any names because "we are gathering all the information on the plot to present it to the Supreme Court of Justice." [passage omitted]

Cabrera's statements have been questioned by the political opposition and the popular sectors in the country. However, the foreign minister today said "the Army already has all the data on the plot."

Cabrera, who will resign on 14 January 1989 to return to his party to prepare his presidential campaign, pointed out: "We know where the conspirators met and the subjects they talked about."

He added that the Army is handling the data provided by "intelligence services from friendly countries."

Government Minister Juan Jose Rodil Peralta stated that President Cerezo "has not requested this office" or the police intelligence section "to investigate the uncovered plot." Nevertheless, "we are ready to cooperate if he so requests."

Honduras

Armed Forces Deny Planes Attacked Nicaragua

PA161421 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Honduras Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides yesterday denied accounts from Managua that Honduran planes had attacked villages inside Nicaraguan territory. Suarez Benavides said that the Honduran Air Force has not carried out any type of activity on the border with Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

D. Ortega Reiterates Need for Fighter Planes

PA162215 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2000 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today was asked to comment on the fact that Honduras, a country not engaged in war, has just received 2 of the 12 F-5 fighter planes the United States promised to deliver. President Daniel Ortega reiterated Nicaragua's need to obtain fighter planes to stop contra supply flights. Ortega said the delivery of these planes to Honduras causes an imbalance in Central America's conventional forces and poses a threat to Nicaragua:

[Begin Ortega recording] That is why Nicaragua has tried to get this sort of airplane and continues to try to get them. As I told you, Honduras is not facing a rebel force as is the case in El Salvador. The rebel forces in Honduras are very small. There are guerrilla forces in Honduras, but they are very small. The airplanes Honduras is receiving tip the military balance in Honduras' favor.

Moreover, this poses a threat to El Salvador. As we all know, there was a war between Honduras and El Salvador. El Salvador and Honduras have to resolve pending border disputes. As long as U.S. troops are stationed in Honduras and these problems are not settled, the F-5 airplanes pose a threat to Nicaragua's security.

Still, as we have repeatedly stated, Nicaragua is entitled to obtain fighter planes, but not to threaten Honduras or defend itself from Honduras. There is no reason to go to war with Honduras or any other Central American country. The goal is simply to intercept flights from Honduran and Salvadoran territory with military supplies for the mercenary forces. [end recording]

Obando y Bravo, Ortega on 21 Dec Contra Talks

PA162026 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Forty-eight hours after promising to advise Cardinal Obando y Bravo of the government's position on the new meeting between Sandinist envoys and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] after Monday's meeting was suspended, President Daniel Ortega turned up at the archbishop's curia and held talks with his eminence for 45 minutes. Ortega proposed that the next meeting take place on 21 December. Once RN delegate Aristides Sanchez was informed over the telephone, he accepted this. In their own words, both the cardinal and Ortega discuss this:

[Begin recording] [Obando y Bravo] The purpose of the meeting was to see whether a date could be set so government technical advisers could talk with the contra technical advisers face-to-face while the commissions meet in the Dominican Republic. On Monday there will

be a meeting in the Dominican Republic where government advisers will be able to talk face-to-face with RN technical advisers. Additionally, the commissions that have been holding talks will also be there. The government has said that it already has its technical advisers. However, they have not given me the names, but have said that they will be foreigners. Therefore, if there are no further difficulties, we will travel to the Dominican Republic on Monday.

[Reporter] Will the dialogue be direct?

[Obando y Bravo] There will be direct talks between the government technical advisers and the RN advisers through the mediator, myself. But there will also be an indirect dialogue between the two commissions.

[Reporter] The RN telephoned. What did they say?

[Obando y Bravo] To ensure that the meeting takes place on Monday we had to telephone Miami through the channel designated by the RN. The RN has designated Dr Aristides Sanchez as a contact. We contacted him to say we are prepared to travel, God permitting, on Monday to Santo Domingo; he replied that the RN will be there on Monday to engage in talks.

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] The president said he will consider our suggestion and that on 24-25 December there will be a cease-fire to celebrate the birth of Christ, without, I would add, bullets, cannon fire, or dead.

[Reporter] Many thanks, Monsignor.

[Ortega] On 21 December a new meeting will take place in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, to agree on the cease-fire. This meeting will be attended by the technical groups that attended last time—from the Nicaraguan Government and the U.S. Government, represented by the contras. Additionally, the Nicaraguan Government will be accompanied by a team of foreigners. The United States, through the contras, will also take along technical advisers. We do not know their nationalities. The idea is that these two teams of advisers [break in reception]. [end recording]

Court Justices Resign Over 'Noncompliance'

PA161645 Paris AFP in Spanish 0530 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Managua, 15 Dec (AFP)—Three Nicaraguan judges, Hernaldo Zuniga, Santiago Rivas, and Rodolfo Robelo, resigned from the Nicaraguan Supreme Court of Justice alledging that government officials had "not complied" with several legal decisions.

The judges, who have been on the court for the past 8 years, presented their resignations to National Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez in a letter sent a few hours ago.

Among the reasons given by the three officials for their resignation was Agriculture Minister Jaime Wheelock's "noncompliance" with an order to return "La Veronica," a farm in the northern part of the country that had been confiscated by the government.

Their letter, published today in the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, says, "unfortunately, amparos issued by the Supreme Court of Justice have been repeatedly disregarded, legal officials' orders have been disobeyed, and judges who represent justice—as well as lawyers practicing their profession—have been disrespected."

Chief Justice Alejandro Serrano has stated that he will soon submit a list of candidates to replace the judges who have resigned.

Panama

Officials Speak at Loyalty Day Ceremonies

Delvalle Decrees Pardon

PA161925 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1446 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by President Eric Arturo Delvalle on the occasion of Loyalty Day at the Panamanian Defense Forces Headquarters in Panama City—live]

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; Mrs Noriega; Colonel Marco Justines, chief of the General Staff; Mrs Justines; Colonel Elias Castillo, deputy chief of the General Staff-ground forces and G-3 of the General Staff; Mrs Castillo; Colonel Alberto Purcell, deputy chief of the General Staff-air forces and G-5 of the General Staff; Mrs Purcell; members of the General Staff; Alberto Aleman Boyd, president of the Legislative Assembly; Marisol Reyes de Vasquez; president of the Supreme Court; Your Excellencies Ministers of State; honorable legislators; Demetrio Basilio Lakas, former president of the Republic; members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Panama; civilian authorities of the Republic; church authorities; military attaches accredited in Panama; ladies and gentlemen:

From the dawn of humankind, from the formation of the first human groups, from the beginning of the first societies, and the creation of the first few nations, loyalty has been the foremost quality and an irreplaceable virtue of man. Treason, on the contrary, is an indelible stigma for man. Treason buries man in the abyss of his own conscience and converts him into a pariah of society. Sometimes it may even lead him to execution in the public plaza.

Loyalty is praised, admired, and rewarded. Treason degrades a person and is repudiated and punished.

Today, as in previous years, our armed institution pays homage to loyalty by recalling the critical moments experienced by the country in 1969. At that time this lofty quality predominated in the officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops of the former National Guard when they supported their commander in chief, General Omar Torrijos Herrera.

With this act of loyalty, they saved the institution from an attempt to destroy it. Similar attempts are still being made by those who were mainly favored by the people's vote in the 1968 elections.

To place history in its true perspective, we must recognize that the grave institutional crisis the country suffered in the late 1960's prompted this armed institution to intervene in an unprecedented way in the way the state was run by civilians, to restore public order in the nation.

Historical events show that the way the FDP exercised power required a process of gradual and adequate evolution that culminated with the formal promise by Gen Torrijos—the commander to whom this institution offered its unconditional loyalty—to lead the Republic toward full democratization where justice and freedom would prevail amid peace.

We, as the final heirs of the long generational struggle—which is 83 years old, and has only 12 years to go thanks to the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty—have all inherited this promise by Commander Torrijos, this commitment with the fatherland, with our history, and with destiny.

You, as members of this institution, stood beside that commander as he made this promise to the country. As a dynamic follower of the sovereign and liberating struggles headed by Torrijos, Gen Noriega, your current commander, is fulfilling this promise, as well as I, as the leader who has to preside over the 1989 electoral process.

The FDP has fully complied with the temporary duty imposed by the circumstances during those moments of anguish for the Panamanian nation. The country expects, with trust and optimism, that together we will fulfill the promise Gen Noriega and I made at Fort Cimarron to fully restore democracy, rekindle faith in our republican institutions, restore peaceful coexistence among Panamanians, and open the path for the country's progress and grandeur.

In this Panamanian democracy—which is ours without impositions or interventions; which we discussed at length with the eight hispanic American presidents in Acapulco recently; and which is essential to achieve the political unity of our continent—the FDP has a starring role as the armed branch of our government, the guardians of our republican institutions, the defenders of an interoceanic canal that serves the world, and as the guarantors of public order, which are indispensable conditions for the preservation of peace and the promotion of development.

It is necessary to accept that our armed institution has also acquired a commitment that I applaud without reservation: to maintain their relations with farmers, workers, and students through their civic action programs and other parallel actions to contribute toward the attainment of those groups' goals for improvements in their living conditions. This type of activity should not be interpreted as incursions into the civilian sphere but as the positive participation of one of the state's most important institutions in the difficult effort of finding suitable solutions to the Panamanian people's problems at all levels.

This act, dedicated by the Defense Forces to exalt their commitment to loyalty without bounds, renews our determination to reaffirm our call to all Panamanians, without class distinction, to initiate a sincere joint action to attain national harmony as a first effective step toward the economic, political, and social restructuring of the country based on an encompassing union of wills.

I am convinced that with a frank and objective exchange of ideas and opinions, probably in opposition at the start, we will find roads to healthy understandings that will end months of unfortunate discord that has not given anybody victory and that has been detrimental for all.

However, let us not continue talking about our differences. Let us talk about all the acts that can unite us within the republican laws and guidelines and as sons of the same land. In several historic moments those who shed their blood in internal wars were able to harmonize to attain peace and achieve noteworthy advances. Harmony among us also has to be attained for the common well-being; we must all be moved by the noble purpose of serving the fatherland's sacred interests.

Conscious of my responsibility to see that we attain this objective and to further the democratization process we all desire, I have taken some effective measures and will take others of equal importance that I believe are just and correct.

Today, in compliance with the Constitution, the Cabinet Council has agreed to designate two new justices for the Supreme Court of Justice. After thorough discussions it was decided that the posts would be filled by the illustrious jurists Kjell Harmodio Arosemena and Campo Elias Munoz, who are authorized figures in the domestic courts of justice and who are accepted as honorable and honest men. This action is taken to strengthen the judicial organ so its prestige, authority, and independence can be consolidated as needed to carry out their delicate functions effectively.

In addition, and because of my deep belief that opposition parties should be represented in the Electoral Tribunal, I have requested and received the patriotic cooperation of Luis Carlos Chen, who, in a noble generous gesture, has left his post as Electoral Tribunal magistrate. Filling this vacancy falls upon the executive branch, and I will take into account the most representive figures in the opposition parties, as well as their personal merits.

I do not want to let this occasion go by without noting that the debates that are carried out in the Electoral Tribunal with the participation of several parties will surely lead us to improve the 1989 election procedures so they reflect, in a quick and unquestionable manner, the will of the national majorities. I believe the abstention of several parties in these debates to be a serious political error that they must rectify.

On several occasions I have stated that I firmly believe in men's inalienable rights; individual's right and freedom of expression are fundamental. Unfortunately, those two rights were impaired by the political crisis experienced by the country for several months, which seriously threatened public peace, the state's institutionality, and the country's economic stability. I am aware that as long as these conditions continue it will be very difficult to attain the necessary climate to strengthen unity and peace and provide harmony among all Panamanians. In these serious moments it is much more important for our fatherland that we direct our goals toward the attainment of national harmony, leaving to the side reproaches and punishments that will not further the attainment of faith in the Panamanian nation and its future.

During these Christmas days we must practice love and pardon to achieve the tranquillity and happiness we want for ourselves and our families. Therefore, fully using my constitutional powers, I have decided to decree a general pardon as of 23 December, in the interest of contributing toward the reconciliation and reunification of the Panamanian family, especially during this time of the year that promotes family festivities and the brotherhood of men. This way, all the pardoned people, in or out of the country, can join their families during this season.

Regarding freedom of expression and the abuses that have been made in the use of this right, government officials are obliged to take steps to stop these abuses.

For the purpose of correcting shortcomings in our laws on this subject, the Legislative Assembly is considering amending a law that has to do with exercising this right. The judicial branch has also been presented with cases involving this matter. However, neither of these branches has taken any action yet.

However, I have considered it appropriate to wait until the legislative sessions end for this period so both the Legislative Assembly and the state attorney's office have the opportunity to comment on this issue. When the legislative session ends the pardon I have decreed will go into effect. The media that are presently restricted can then once again fulfill their informational duties—with the hope that they will do so with seriousness and responsibility, and without the abuses that have inflicted so much harm on the country—after the legal proceedings conclude.

Gen Torrijos once said that when considering the interests of the fatherland one cannot be petty. The fatherland is the source of and the reason for our actions. You have been entrusted with the arms of a people who want to live an orderly life, with respect and peace, and I am the constitutional president of the Republic. Both of us must make decisions to guide the nation toward a better future.

Today, as we are paying tribute to the beautiful virtue of loyalty, we must accept that, first of all, we must be loyal to ourselves, to the Panamanian people, and especially to the best ideals of our fatherland.

Commander Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, distinguished members of the staff, hard-working and loyal members of the Defense Forces, the world is looking at us and views us as the people responsible for the future of the nation. We have an international channel in the midst of our territory. We protect this channel, and this responsibility sometimes is much greater than our size as a nation would indicate. Only with maturity, with peace and harmony which contribute to good judgment and positive efforts, and with unity and with absolute trust in our future will we be able to successfully face, with the recognition of other nations, the important and historic mission that nature bestowed upon us as the geographic bridge of the world.

Loyal friends, fellow citizens, I will never tire of advocating the reestablishment of national accord because the fatherland is more important than transitory bickering, temporary anger, and any other feeling. The fatherland is the common denominator that unites all Panamanians and pushes us to devotedly and firmly honor and glorify it, certain that in this way we are forging a more dignified and happy life for future generations.

I am convinced that the patriotism that rests in the soul of all Panamanians will be victorious now and whenever the nation faces danger because all of us—workers, businessmen, military men, religious people, and students—will always put Panama first, to serve her with our best efforts and with ardent zeal.

Noriega Comments

PA162314 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1301 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by General Manuel A. Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, at a ceremony marking Loyalty Day at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 15 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Panama is being threatened. There is a policy of fear and a psychological war that includes ideas like the one about Al-Qadhdhafi

coming to Panama to lead a war in Central America. That is a lie. [applause] I, Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander in chief of the Defense Forces of Panama, want to tell you today that that is a lie and that there are people who want to frighten our friends, the Jews. [applause] I give my word that there is no such plot and I will surrender my life if there is Libyan sabotage against the Jews here in Panama. [applause]

They [not further identified] are frightened when countries begin to live with dignity. If we look at the list of those who were—and I will not mention any names to avoid ruining this night—Omar's henchmen, those who told him to go to Libya, including the greatest traitor, who is in the United States now and took a picture with Al-Qadhdhafi... [changes thought] he also went to Russia and wanted to be appointed the first Panamanian ambassador to Russia. You know very well who that person is. We will not mention any names, because after all we are in the month of December.

The communists are not the ones seeking economic benefits. The self-seeking capitalists are the ones seeking economic advantage when it is convenient for them. Every time they saw an opportunity they told Omar: Omar, go to Libya. Omar, establish relations with Russia and appoint my brother the Panamanian ambassador there to begin with.

Names are unimportant. The important thing is for our brothers, the Jews who work and live in Panama, which is a nation they have joined, to know that there is no Libyan threat in Panama. [applause]

In addition, we want to tell you that for the sake of the Central American peace balance, in the next few days we will send a message to Nicaraguan Commander Ortega. It is a message on balance. The message will tell him that it is not a favorable time to increase war readiness, which is a force of imbalance in the region. The message will say that it is not suitable to increase the number of soldiers to create a force of pressure and punishment. The message will say we believe in and trust him and we believe in a Central American military equilibrium and that that balance of forces has occurred in proportion to our degree of weakness and the attacks against us.

There should not, however, be a higher state of war readiness constituting a threat or source of distrust or serving as a cause for retaliation. Ortega should maintain the state of war readiness necessary to defend his country, but not one that would create conditions for violence against other countries. That is also our peace message. [applause]

Another thought: There are two ways to sleep easily—live calmly or stay home and take a Valium. As a commander, as a military man I am asked to do as superior forces order and to follow the orders of men wearing different uniforms, and they [not further specified] expect us to stand for that! [crowd chants slogans] [Legislator] Moyo Icaza said it. [cheers] [Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, President] Romulo Escobar said it. [cheers] I have not yet said anything, and I am not going to say it all, but I will say a little now, because there is a U.S. newswoman among us. [laughter] If Manuel Antonio Noriega had said yes on that fateful and unfortunate morning after meeting with Poindexter, Manuel Antonio Noriega would be facing no problem now. [applause]

A captain who graduated from West Point was a witness to this. Armed with the courage and dignity of a Defense Forces member, he told Poindexter: You are a rude person. And that is why that captain is a dignified person; he is part of a generation, our relief force, that will not surrender or budge. [applause] [passage omitted]

In December, a month of peace, we know Panamanians do not harbor deep hatred; we know that our ability to be superior includes pardoning people and not keeping a running count, because the great ability to rule consists of knowing that one can cancel, omit, pardon, and give up that running count. [applause] [passage omitted]

No more West Point graduates will be returning here because we are not going to send anyone else there.

Gentlemen, this is not a political meeting. This is a meeting of Panamanians; this is a meeting in a system the United States does not understand. [pauses] I am sorry, I am sorry because I cannot explain that. [preceding sentence in English]

The United States cannot understand how a military commander, one of those military men it thought it had created, [laughter] is meeting with politicians: one of them shouting PALA [Labor Party], another one shouting PRD, another... [laughs] [applause] This is crazy. [laughter, applause] This cannot be explained; it cannot be. [crowd shouts: "We are united"]

Therefore, since their plans are computerized, they are saying: What happened with that commander? [laughter] What happened with Noriega? Noriega is crazy? [laughter] [preceding three sentences in English] No, no, I am a Panamanian. [passage omitted]

We all know Panamanian society. There are no differences here. There is no hatred and rancor here. Here differences last a short time and then disappear. We do not exterminate people here. Here journalists do not have to go through what they endured in Haiti. Haiti is another example of a country where the United States has made a mistake. It attempted to have a backward society take the plunge into a made-in-U.S.A. [preceding three words in English] democracy. [laughter, applause] And now it wants to overthrow the general who is in power there, after he was told to stay, to overthrow, and to keep on overthrowing. [laughter]

This is the type of confusion we do not have here. We belong here. We know this society, and we move within it. This society has its inherent characteristics; this society has its own, inherent characteristics. Any time an outsider wants to meddle in a fight between a husband and wife the result is that the husband and wife make up, and the meddler ends up with both of them angry at him. [laughter, applause] And that is what has happened to made in U.S.A. [preceding three words in English] [laughter]

Gentlemen, we want to be good during December; we pray to be good. I want everyone to know that any type of tolerance shown, that any decision not made for any type of abuse, that anything not allowed by us such as taking political prisoners... [changes though] because right now there is not a single political prisoner here. There is not a single political prisoner here. [repeats himself]

The special characteristics of Panamanians make them a different breed of people; so different, in fact, that they are sometimes misunderstood. Some people come here—they are advisers, support [preceding two words in English]—I do not know what—[laughter] just to look at us, to analyze us as though we were in a zoo, as though we are different. We are different. We are a country where there is development and human sensitivity totally different from what is outside our borders. In other countries there are decapitated heads rolling on the streets every morning and there are missing people, while here people worry if someone is beaten up at the Ancon Inn Bar. [laughter] [passage omitted]

This was a society that needed change; a society that needed development and planning. So Torrijos committed himself, his life, the peace of his home, and everything that belonged to him to achieve that. He also put his prestige on the line to consolidate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. He knew he was a visionary; he believed. He told me in one of the corridors at headquarters: Noriega, get the people out of the locks we were going to blow up—he said this in front of Barbara Walters—because we have achieved what we were after—Arnulfo Arias is never coming back, and we are going to reopen the newspapers. Yet Arnulfo Arias returned! And the newspapers harassed us again. [laughter] So Torrijos also made mistakes, because he was also human; because he thought farther ahead; because he relinquished economic power, believing political power was for the poor. This has not worked out in practice, because those who have economic power are now trying to seek political power to subjugate the poor. [applause, shouts]

It is up to you whether you are subjugated or not. [shouts] It depends on the unity or disunity you have; it depends on the differences that might arise among you; it depends on the rivalry, hatred, and slander you yourselves generate. Panamanian Torrijists, unite! [applause]

PRD President Speaks

PA161743 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0316 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Speech by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), at a Loyalty Day dinner held the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 15 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We want to reaffirm what our party has stated, what other National Democratic Union parties have stated, what the president of the Republic has stated, and what General Manuel Antonio Noriega has stated: We continue to believe that dialogue between Panamanians, without foreign interference, is the only viable way to resolve our domestic problems in a peaceful manner.

We reaffirm our decision to continue toward the May 1989 elections—a democratic contest that will be honest and clean—with the certainty that we will easily defeat our adversaries in these polls, and we will show them we are Panama's political majority.

We will uphold our concepts of the right to self-determination and domestic and international freedom. We will not obey the U.S. Senate's orders. We will not surrender. We will advance with a firm step as worthy descendants of our forefathers, of those who fought in December 1947, of the January 1964 martyrs, of the women and men who built the fatherland's path with their blood, pain, and sacrifice.

That is our response to imperialism. That is our response to domestic reactionaries. [passage omitted]

UNADE Statement

PA170129 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0236 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Statement by the National Democratic Union (UNADE) issued at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 15 December—live]

[Text] UNADE, comprising FRAMPO [Popular Broad Front Party], the Panamenist Party, the Liberal Party, the Republican Party, PALA [Labor Party], and the PRD, on another Loyalty Day anniversary commemorating 16 December 1969, when in a brave and decisive gesture and essentially loyal to the liberation principles embodied in leader Omar Torrijos Herrera, current General Manuel Antonio Noriega made possible the triumphant return of Omar to the fatherland, considers it necessary to stress the following:

The organized forces of hatred continue in their seditious campaign against the nationalist and democratic plan that UNADE has tried to develop in a climate of peace and respect for the country's established institutions.

The ultraconservative plot, in its destabilizing efforts, has used domestic forces and encouraged attitudes that attack the traditional Panamanian style of resolution without hatred or national conflicts.

This imported hatred turned systematically against prominent figures of the patriotic forces, especially against Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, who stand as an obvious guarantee that the democratic process will be strengthened by the 1989 elections and will end successfully with the recovery of the canal and the withdrawal of foreign military bases by the year 2000.

We reiterate our call for a national dialogue among all the sectors that truly want the country's progress. We extend our hand to all people and sectors of good will. We warn of the threat of facing antinational forces of vast significance, while broad sectors of the country are divided over domestic disputes that surpass the limits of civic responsibility and patriotic consolidation.

Just as Gen Noriega pointed out in Argentina recently, the U.S. politicians interfering in Panama's domestic affairs do so with the sole and daring belief that Panama is a U.S. colony. With this in mind, they have tried to make Panama abandon the Contadora Group and stop seeking a peaceful solution for Central America.

Gen Noriega has provoked the anger of the U.S. reactionary and warmongering sector because of his contribution to dialogue in Central America. This contribution has earned for him the nickname of the general of peace. Of course, the politicians are in error. They have underestimated Panama's power to tackle foreign enemies and their domestic allies.

Panama's history is rich in glorious examples of patriotic reaffirmation. On this Loyalty Day UNADE reaffirms this determination to the people. We acknowledge and support the courageous and patriotic efforts of Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle to deal with the seditious escalation against the state's democratic institutions. Today, like yesterday, the Panama Defense Forces and their commander in chief set an example of unity and loyalty. This example goes beyond the borders of our homeland. For the consolidation of national patriotic unity and the development of democratic institutions, let us not take a single step backward.

[Signed] Miguel Montiel, for the Popular Broad Front Party; Luis Gaspar Suarez, for the Panamenist Party; Roldolfo Chiari De Leon, for the Liberal Party; Bernardo Cardenas, for the Republican Party; Juan Medrano, for the Labor Party; Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, for the Democratic Revolutionary Party

Panama City, 15 December 1987

Students Demonstrate

PA161855 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Panama City, 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Four government cars and old tires were burned today in the vicinity of the University of Panama by more than 100 students who staged an antigovernment demonstration.

A military source told ACAN-EFE that "the students are using these incidents to take the luster off Loyalty Day," which is being celebrated by the Defense Force (Army and police) to commemorate the 18th anniversary of an aborted military coup against General Omar Torrijos.

On 16 December 1969 the present commander of the Defense Forces, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, prevented a military coup against Torrijos, who was then in Mexico.

During the protests, which were held without police intervention, the university students also wrote slogans on the streets near the university, such as "Justice and the military: No."

Abadia: 'Wrong Slant' Given to Ties With Libya

PA161858 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Dec 87 pp 4, 14

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias has stated that Panama has begun contacting European, Asian, and American governments, particularly those that have expressed a desire to altruistically cooperate with development plans to help the Panamanian people.

Abaida said that we have always counted on cooperation from Italy and Great Britain, which have provided economic support.

He said that as a sovereign, independent country with its own identity, Panama is turning to the countries that wish to help us, but "there are people who are speculating about our sovereign efforts."

Regarding Libya, Abadia told MATUTINO the Panamanian Government is only "implementing agreements on mutual assistance signed in 1977."

"No figures have been discussed respecting economic assistance," Abadia said, charging foreign news media of again "giving the wrong slant" on the matter for "purely speculative" purposes.

He recalled in this regard that the same wrong slant was given to the government's decision to order the closing of the AID offices, which had suspended all unilateral aid to the Panamanian Government for over 60 days.

Abadia admitted that there are "economic difficulties," but the "fact" that documents have been signed and there is talk about amounts of contributions and support to Panama by Libya are "speculation."

"We are making preliminary soundings," he explained, noting that as a sovereign and independent country Panama can turn to whomever wishes to altruistically help. Otherwise, the question would be: "Are we or are we not a nation?"

In 1977, Panama and Libya signed a number of "mutual assistance" agreements comprising economic assistance, trade, and cultural exchanges. The National Legislation Council ratified them in 1978. But, as MATUTINO has learned, northern foreign forces have been "blackmailing" Panama into not implementing them through an exchange of notes between the two governments.

Other Foreign Ministry sources said they do not understand why this pack is on the loose and that this demonstrates that the blackmailing is ongoing while they [not further identified] applaud and fulfill the U.S. economic aggression.

Ambassador on Plot To Assassinate Noriega

PA161940 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Statement by David Pere, Panamanian ambassador to Costa Rica, in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 15 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We have been able to verify that certain sectors of the U.S. Government have been pulling the strings behind the movement to topple General Noriega from power and then to overthrow the Panamanian Government.

Having failed in the bid to oust him from power, they had planned to assassinate Gen Noriega on 15 or 16 December. They had also talked about overthrowing the Panamanian Government in early January, and had specifically selected the date of 2 January to carry out the Birds of Prey and Mouse operation. In addition to certain authorities and military attaches of the U.S. Embassies in Costa Rica and Panama, members of the Panamanian Civic Crusade opposition movement who are currently in Panama are involved in the plot. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

More Reports on Municipal Elections, Results

MIR Candidate Cited

PY141618 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1901 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] La Paz, 13 Dec (NA)—On learning the results of the vote count released by the Federal Court, Raul Salomon de la Barra, candidate of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), today stated that he will certainly be elected mayor of La Paz.

The MIR has won the municipal elections in La Paz and obtained five councilmen's seats, followed by the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) with four councilmen's seats, while the Leftist Patriotic Alliance (AP) and the Revolutionary Vanguard (VR) won one seat each.

The government Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) also obtained one councilman's seat.

Since none of the candidates obtained 50 percent plus one of the votes, the municipal council will elect the mayor of La Paz. [passage omitted]

Impropriety Charges Rejected

PY150249 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Jose Luis Paredes, president of the La Paz Department Electoral Court, has rejected allegations by Mauro Cuellar Caballero, president of the National Electoral Court.

In the last few hours, Cuellar accused Paredes of not being impartial and added that Paredes has acted as a fanatical follower of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). Rejecting these charges, Paredes said he had always acted with absolute honesty, and he pointed to the ADN delegates who were present as witnesses during the official counting. Paredes recalled that Cuellar is an ADN leader and added that some political parties did not want to accept the results because they were not favorable to them. [passage indistinct]

Drug Traffickers Reportedly Warring for Power

PY161502 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0311 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] La Paz, 15 Dec (EFE)—Bolivian Social Development Under Secretary Jorge Alderete today reported that representatives of the Bolivian drug trafficking Mafia have met in La Paz to discuss "unspecified matters."

The meeting is reportedly linked to interest by Bolivian drug traffickers in "obtaining absolute control in Latin America," Alderete stated.

Alderete added he had received unofficial reports that this meeting was reportedly attended by people from Santa Cruz, eastern Bolivia, who are linked to drug trafficking.

Alderete stated that "Bolivian drug traffickers have engaged in a war for the control of power in Latin America."

He added that to achieve this goal and to compete with drug traffickers Mafias from Colombia, Brazil, and Peru, the drug traffickers will "resort to different methods to hurt each other." One of the methods used is informing on each other to the authorities.

Alderete explained that the participation of Bolivian drug traffickers in this war for control of the drug business "is very clear."

According to him, traffickers from Bolivia and other neighboring countries have changed their attitude toward traditional traffickers "groups," and now they are trying to monopolize the international drug market.

According to Alderete, the Bolivian drug traffickers have only a slim chance of controlling the market "because of the tremendous power of other groups from Colombia, Peru, and Brazil."

He added that "four or five families" reportedly control drug trafficking in Bolivia.

The drug Mafia operations center is located mainly in Chapare—Cochabamba Department—and in the regions of Santa Cruz and El Beni.

Alderete also referred to news reports from Colombia which state that Velasco Province, Santa Cruz Department, is one of the main strongholds of the drug Mafias.

"I did not know anything about this," the under secretary stated. He added that "this information must be taken into consideration."

Brazil

Brossard Interviewed on Assembly, Constitution

PY111832 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Dec 87 p 6

["Exclusive" interview with Justice Minister Paulo Brossard in Sao Paulo by O ESTADO reporter Jose Naumante Pinto; date not given]

[Text] [Pinto] Do you think that the incident and the disorderly demonstration at the Constituent Assembly on 3 December will hurt the Brazilian constitutional process?

[Brossard] There is no doubt about it. It was shameful, but also enlightening: Shameful because no parliament in the world would permit demonstrations in the corridors like the ones that occurred here, with insults and insulting attitudes (people threw coins aroun as if they were at a popular fair); enlightening because it shows there are groups that are willing to resort to force and coercion to promote the adoption of their positions by the Constituent Assembly. The incident was positive in this respect. Thanks to newspaper and magazine pictures, and to television coverage, the people of the country will be able to see with their own eyes the means used by these groups to pressure and coerce our national political representatives. I think this kind of pressure is not legitimate. In a democracy, incidents like this are alarming. How many people were roaming around the congressional corridors? Perhaps 200, 300, or 400? Think of what their numbers represent compared with the Brazilian electorate, or the Brazilian society, represented in Congress by their elected degates. The attitude of these groups was evidently antidemocratic and markedly totalitarian. The methods they used are not democratic but totalitarian.

[Pinto] Did you notice any congressional leaders among the demonstrators?

[Brossard] There were people that are nationally well known for their party affiliations. We all know that their parties have very little representation countrywide and that their numbers are very small. They are representatives of a very small minority, without any roots in society. They use these unusual methods to influence the Constituent Assembly regarding the most important issues.

[Pinto] Do you think the demonstrators should be punished?

[Brossard] I read in the newspapers that the doors of the corridors were forced open and that some congressmen participated. I would say yes, that they, including the congressmen, should be punished because congressmen do not have the right to help break into their own house. I ask: Can the people who have been identified be allowed to walk into the galleries and corridors of the National Congress as if nothing had happened?

[Pinto] What do you think of the PMDB leader who exhorted his bloc to withdraw before the voting during the incident in question?

[Brossard] I do not know the reasons that made him withdraw his party bloc from the plenum.

[Pinto] Mr Brossard, he did not withdraw his party bloc. He advised them to leave, and not all of them left.

[Brossard] That is correct. The episode shows something quite clearly: The Constitution cannot be drafted by a single faction. It is necessary to find a way toward moderate thinking and to avoid the extremes of Brazilian society. Perhaps this has been forgotten, but the truth is that the extremes do not represent Brazilian society; they only represent minor parts of it. This should serve for responsible people to do what they should have already done in February, that is, establish ways to compromise, to work together, and to understand the many different factions. The large majority of Brazilian Constitutional Rights Institutes are not involved in controversies. There is a cultural heritage of constitutional rights in all the legal statutes that have been ruling our political life. It would be inconsistent to abandon them as if they had never existed, because they are part of the cultural tradition of the nation. It is worth noting that despite the institutional accidents [military coups], these traditions have been maintained. It is important, then, to incorporate the present constitutional process into the cultural tradition of the country. The matters under discussion are not insurmountable and there is no reason to get into fist fights over them. In Congress, these discussions were always solved, and will always be solved, in the most simple way: by the vote. They will not be solved by pressure, insults, or aggression. I think we can take the 1946 Constitution as a starting point for a more rational discussion.

[Pinto] Is that possible from a political point of view?

[Brossard] Why not?

[Pinto] Well, a draft has been voted on, the Assembly worked for a year over it... It does not seem reasonable to start again from another text.

[Brossard] Why not? There is a strong reason for it: If the 1946 Constitution was adopted, Constituent Assembly members would simply follow a constitutional order that was interrupted. That would be intelligent, reasonable, and even wise. Would this not be a way of reestablishing institutions that were arbitrarily destroyed? Would it not be a way of reestablishing the historic trend of Brazilian constitutional law? The 1946 Constitution, after all, was written by a free national Constituent Assembly specially elected for that purpose.

[Pinto] But hasn't the country changed in the years between 1946 and 1987?

[Brossard] I ask you: Is it not a fact that France has changed in the last few years? The French Constitution was written well before 1946. The same thing applies in Italy, Germany, and Sweden. As a Brazilian, I feel a bit uncomfortable with the knowledge that Argentina maintains a Constitution written in 1953 [as published; should be 1853] and does not need to change constitutions every 6 months. Argentine history is very much like ours, including the matter of institutional breaks. The argument that the 1946 Constitution is old is really unacceptable.

[Pinto] Is the necessary political climate present to abandon the draft approved by the Systematization Commission?

[Brossard] The 3 December incident showed there is already the beginning of an understanding. Otherwise, the Constituent Assembly would not be able to finish its work, or at least to conclude it within the desired period. I have begun to think a solution of this kind is even necessary. A mistake can be corrected without tarnishing anyone's honor. I do not think it is very smart to continue working toward, or in the direction of, the same mistake.

[Pinto] Can the victory of the Centrist Group influence this process?

[Brossard] Yes. I think the 290 votes of the Centrist Group can have a political influence leading to a more rational conduct of the constitutional process.

[Pinto] Why?

[Brossard] Because the Centrist Group proved to have the support of the majority of the Constituent Assembly. I am conscious that it was a majority specific to the occasion, with a limited and determined purpose, but I believe such a majority will try to reexamine the final text of the constitution with a less radical outlook. There is no doubt that certain groups that do not constitute a majority have tried from the beginning to influence decisively the work of the Constituent Assembly by adopting regulations that were obviously not very democratic. It took time for a reaction to emerge, but it did surface in the end. When it became clear the game could not be played only by the extremist groups, it also became clearer that the final draft would have to reflect the thinking and desires of the average Brazilian, up to the point where negotiations are possible. When matters enter the field of controversy they will be voted on, because there is no better method of respecting society than to respect the decision of the majority of representatives that society itself elected.

Creditor Banks Delay Debt Payment Deal

PY160130 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] According to a source close to the Brazilian debt negotiations, Brazil has already signed an agreement committing itself to pay $500 million out of a total of $1.5 billion in interest for the last quarter of the year, but private banks have not deposited their $1 billion share of the deal yet.

One of the creditor banks, the Bank of Boston, has decided to absorb losses of $200 million, most of it from loans to Third World countries. The Bank of Boston is the first of the large U.S. banks to absorb this kind of loss.

Trade Strategy With Eastern Europe Viewed

PY160048 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Jose Nogueira Filho, head of Itamaraty's Eastern Europe Department, has said the strategy that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has designed for trade between Brazil and East European countries provides for the export of manufactured products with high added value, instead of raw materials like cacao and coffee.

[Begin Nogueira Filho recording, in progress] ...a time when the industrialized nations are trying to protect their markets and developing countries are trying to increase their sales. East European countries emerge as a potentially big market for Brazil and for developing countries. [end recording]

Nogueira Filho attended a meeting on Brazil-East European trade today. The meeting will continue in Belo Horizonte tomorrow.

Salvadoran FMLN Seeks Support From Governors

PY161625 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1334 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 16 Dec (EFE)—Ernesto Cisneros, a member of the Salvadoran FMLN, today reported that representatives of that Central American insurgent group are now in Brazil to meet with state governors in order to request their political support for peace negotiations in their country.

Cisneros has already held meetings with the governors of Para and Rio de Janeiro—Helio Gueiros and Wellington Moreira Franco, respectively—and intends to meet with the most important state political leaders of Brazil.

Cisneros stated that the position adopted by Brazilian and Latin American political leaders will have great influence on decisions made at the meeting to be held in early January in El Salvador with the objective of seeking peace between the Salvadoran guerrillas and President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government.

He said that the main points advocated and defended by the Salvadoran insurgents include the suspension of torture and the control of the paramilitary groups of the Duarte government. He said that these groups "abduct and murder representatives of the opposition."

He added that 18 points will be discussed by the Salvadoran guerrillas and the government at a meeting that could lead to the realization of peace in that country, which has been affected by a civil war for 10 years.

Rio de Janeiro Governor Moreira Franco has stated that El Salvador needs a ceasefire program to be able to "reestablish the minimum respect for human rights."

Airline Employees Given 44 Percent Wage Hike

PY151424 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The Labor Court has authorized a 44-percent salary readjustment for airline company employees. The court also ruled, however, that their strike was illegal. Today the court will issue a decision on the collective bargaining agreement demanded by the airline company employees.

[Begin recorded relay by reporter Sonia Silgueiros] The airline workers do not think the 44-percent raise is sufficient. According to Jose Caetano Lavorato, president of the airline company workers union, this same salary increase, which was proposed during a previous conciliation hearing at the Labor Court, provoked last weekend's strike. He said that the workers' next step is to negotiate directly with the airline companies to try to obtain a higher increase.

The airline company workers want a 100-percent raise immediately, plus a 3.75 percent monthly readjustment for the next 12 months. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Chile

Senate Approval on Opposition Aid Reported

PY161333 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The Chilean opposition is about to receive $1 million with which to finance its activities, to create new coalitions, to confront the government, and to make an attempt to win the upcoming plebiscite.

Reliable sources have stated that last Monday the U.S. Senate approved $1 million in financial assistance for the Committee for Free Elections in Chile [Comite por Elecciones Libres en Chile].

According to sources, this proposal is part of the so-called Harkin Amendment, proposed by Democratic Senator Tom Harkin, and is part of the U.S. foreign aid bill.

According to sources, the $1 million earmarked for the Committee for Free Elections in Chile will be channeled through the U.S. organization National Endowment of Democracy [preceding four words in English].

The bill approved by the U.S. Senate, which includes the supplying of $1 million—some 240 million pesos—to the Chilean opposition, must now be discussed by a joint commission of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to the sources, the proposal was approved by the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate.

The vast foreign assistance being received by the opposition has been acknowledged by PDC [Christian Democratic Party] leader Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle who received congratulations from National Vanguard President Benjamin Matte.

Benjamin Matte has said that Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle has not been cowardly like other opposition politicians who have not even dared to acknowledge the vast foreign assistance they have been receiving.

Junta Member Rules Out Constitutional Reform

PY161324 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 19

[Excerpt] Asked about the possibility of considering a constitutional reform proposal submitted by a group of political leaders, Navy commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino gave the following categorical answer: "We have considered the possibility of amending the Constitution, but we decided against it. Consequently, there will be no reform."

Merino, who talked to the press at the end of the Government Junta session he chaired yesterday, reported that he had received the letter from a committee of individuals proposing a constitutional reform. [passage omitted]

PDC President Comments

PY162150 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], Patricio Aylwin, has said that the lack of a response from the Junta members—including General Pinochet himself—and the refusal of Admiral Merino to consider the proposed amendment to the Constitution is a show of arrogance and an abuse of power. The amendment was submitted by the Committee for Free Elections headed by Sergio Molina and (Edgardo Comdesa). The committee members proposed modifying the plebiscite by instituting open and free elections instead.

[Begin Aylwin recording] It is a new show of government arrogance and prepotency. The answer we have obtained from the government does not deal with the root of the issue; they do not give any reasons for the refusal. If the Government Junta members would only pause to study the arguments, or carefully consider the reasons behind the petition, they would certainly approve the initiative. The Junta members seem to have stubbornly set their minds on the idea of the plebiscite. They refuse our petition because they hold the reins of power and give the orders, and that is all there is to it.

They will not, however, convince anyone of anything because these acts simply constitute an abuse of power and a demonstration of their refusal to change and move toward reconciliation and a return to full democracy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Admiral Merino Comments on Congress, Loan

PY161200 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Government Junta has approved the law establishing Valparaiso as the seat of the National Congress. This information was disclosed by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino after he presided over the regular legislative session in the Diego Portales Building.

Adm Merino explained that the legislative branch will continue to hold its sessions in Santiago until the National Congress is established in accordance with the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Asked about the approval of a credit for Chile by the World Bank, Merino said that the approval shows the nation's economy is being well managed. [passage omitted]

Regarding the statement made by UN special envoy Fernando Volio, who criticized the Chilean justice system, Merino declined to make any comment, but suggested that the question be put to the justice minister.

Radical Party Announces Decision To Register

PY170252 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Dec 87

["Address to the nation" by Radical Party President Enrique Silva Cima announcing the party's decision to register as a political party; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] I hereby wish to inform the active members, supporters, and sympathizers of the Radical Party, and the citizenry in general, of the following political resolution:

The Radical Party has decided to initiate the necessary procedures to register as a political party. In announcing this decision I want to discuss the events that promoted this decision.

During the past 5 years we have worked hard to obtain the unity of the Chilean people who advocate a harmonious and peaceful outcome to the conflict the country is enduring. In this regard we have always sought a rapprochement with the other democratic Chilean parties. We have never tried to impose an exclusively Radical point of view. Chilean interests and the aspirations of the great majority to oust the dictatorship and reinstate democracy has encouraged us and continues to be the main goal of our political activities. We believe that only with this spirit of generosity and unselfishness will we be able to harness the energy and will of the people who are not only tired of repression, violence, and dictatorship, but also of personal ambitions that distort the noble mission of politics and destroy the citizenry's faith and belief in the credibility of the leadership and the political parties. For many months the Radical Party tried to form an organization with all Chilean democrats, all opponents of the current regime, and supporters of non-violent civic actions. The purpose of that organization was to help the opposition win with regard to the proposal that the government will make regarding the presidential succession, which will be subject to a plebiscite. This, undoubtedly, would also represent a way of expressing the peoples' will, which clearly favors a legitimate replacement of the current situation with another regulated by democratic principles.

In an attempt to achieve these goals, the party took care not to insist on adopting more objectives than the simple and earnest goal of reestablishing a state of law in the country. We have thus complied with the decision of our party's last national plenum to register as an opposition party whose mission would be to promote, under the current regime, a campaign for free elections. Despite all that was proposed and agreed upon, our efforts in favor of unity were not successful. Therefore, also in compliance with the decisions made during our national convention, which called on all party members never to give up the Radical Party's role in national politics, we now offer the Chilean people our party program, which is supported by our party's history and its objective adjustment to national reality. [passage omitted]

Terrorist Actions in Various Areas Reported

Concepcion Church Attacked

PY142222 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Santa Cecilia Parish in Talcahuano, Concepcion Archbishopric, was the target of a terrorist attack early this morning.

Four unidentified individuals entered the courtyard where Father Carlos Puentes Figueroa's van was parked and set it afire. Besides being in charge of Santa Cecilia Parish, Father Puentes is also episcopal vicar for human rights and workers pastoral service.

The fire spread to the church door, and the church was only saved thanks to Father Puentes efforts and the help of some neighbors. [passage omitted]

This same church has been the target of two previous attacks. [passage omitted] It has also been reported that the parish priests have received several threatening phone calls. [passage omitted]

The Human Rights Pastoral Department revealed that this attack was carried out shortly after Archbishop Msgr Jose Manuel Santos denounced a campaign consisting of letters and other pressure tactics aimed at gaining support for General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte from the people of Concepcion. [passage omitted]

Railroad Track Blown Up

PY152324 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Railroad traffic connecting the northern and southern regions was reestablished early this morning, after an explosion at about 2200 last night blew a 60-cm gap in the track.

The terrorist attack occurred at km 251 of the main line and affected tracks on the eastern side of sector 15-1.

The attack could have caused loss of life because the bomb went off 5 minutes after the passage of train No 1,023, which runs from Alameda to Puerto Montt without a stopover in Talca. Frightened by the strong explosion, people who live nearby went to the place of the attack. Realizing its seriousness, they immediately reported it to the Talca station, and traffic connecting the northern and southern regions was suspended.

Workers went to the scene to reestablish traffic in the sector. Carabineros and security force personnel relentlessly searched for clues to identify the attackers.

Carabineros have also reported another explosion that knocked down an Endesa [National Electric Power, Inc] electric tower in the Colgun-Machicura zone of the Pilarco sector.

According to a report released by Endesa, an electric tower in the Pilarco sector was the target of a terrorist attack at 2200 last night. The 500-kilowatt power line, which is part of the national power grid, was damaged by a bomb explosion.

Although other lines continued to supply power to the region, there were blackouts and voltage reductions in the capital. These difficulties, however, were soon overcome.

Briefs

AIDS Cases Reported

The Health Department has delivered a report to the Panamerican Health Organization stating that up to 7 December, 61 AIDS cases have been reported in Chile. The number of people in Chile who have died as a result of the disease is now 26. [Summary] *[Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 12 Dec 87 PY]*

Colombia

Government, Guerrilla Figures Disagree

PA170418 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0707 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Bogota, 15 Dec (EFE)—Colombia's National Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio reported today there are 7,000 guerrillas operating in the country.

As he began to announce these figures Gen Samudio, noted the Colombian Government and Armed Forces are capable of ensuring that the upcoming municipal elections—which will take place for the first time in March 1988—will be conducted in a peaceful and normal atmosphere.

Gen Samudio was referring to the four major left-wing organizations. He noted that the FARC, linked to the orthodox Communist Party of Colombia, has a total of 4,500 men distributed over 39 fronts.

He added that the Army of National Liberation (ELN) has 950 men distributed over 15 fronts, the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (ELP) has 750 men over 15 fronts, and the M-19 has 450 men on 2 fronts.

Gen Samudio noted that these guerrillas are operating in a country of 1.2 million square km with a highly irregular topography. Colombia has a population of 20 million and major social conflicts have been raging there.

According to statistics, poverty in Colombia affects 50 percent of the people, chiefly in rural zones.

The figures the National Defense Minister provided to lawmakers are way below the figures given by the rebels. According to the rebels, the FARC alone has 40,000 men.

Approximately 2 months ago, the abovementioned guerrilla groups, plus the Ricardo Franco Front and the Quintin Lame Commando formed the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board.

Guerrilla actions and clashes with the Army are reported almost every day here. In 1987, approximately 400 soldiers and policemen and 700 guerrillas have been killed.

A truce between the FARC and the government, signed during the Presidency of Belisario Betancur, has been in existence since 1984. This truce has experienced its worst moments in 1987, as the two sides have frequently violated it.

Paraguay

Church Communique on National Dialogue

PY160017 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Dec 87 p 11

[Text] The Paraguayan Episcopal Conference [CEP] has released the following communique regarding the national dialogue that ended yesterday. The conclusions of the CEP will be published soon:

"1. The bishops reiterate their deep satisfaction at this undoubtedly historic event and thank the participants for their warm reception and positive response. The bishops once more regret the rejection of the dialogue by some organizations, whose attitudes will be judged by history.

"2. The church offered an opportunity for a meeting and dialogue to all sectors, with the CEP acting only as moderator. The conclusions of the national dialogue, therefore, express only the thinking of those who participated. The bishops will issue their own document later to express the opinions of the church.

"3. The third stage of the dialogue marks the end of the event as a concrete pastoral initiative under the sponsorship of the CEP, which acted as moderator. Nevertheless, the bishops state that the church will continue to promote dialogue as a pastoral undertaking and because it believes this to be the correct attitude toward mutual coexistence.

"4. The CEP will issue a final document that includes the proposals approved by the event. The document will be published and disseminated by the church. The document will also be submitted to the government (executive, legislative, and judicial branches) and to all political and social movements and organizations as one more gesture in favor of civic harmony.

"5. The church is committed to promoting the repetition of similar experiences, with the proper adaptations at the diocesan level. The bishops have also decided to start a process of dialogue within the church after the visit of the pope.

"6. Finally, the CEP has decided to maintain the same episcopal team established at the beginning of the event (made up of Msgr Benitez, Msgr Paez, and Msgr Livieres) to continue gathering the concerns and opinions of people throughout the country regarding the dialogue, to transmit to the CEP the different initiatives and proposals made to further this end, and to serve as a link for dialogue between the CEP and national authorities."

It was reported that the final document on the national dialogue will be released before the end of the year, and that it will encompass a summary of all the discussions throughout the three stages of the event.

Military Promotions Submitted for Approval

PY151433 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Dec 87 p 6

[Excerpt] The executive branch yesterday submitted for the consideration of the Senate a request provided for by the Constitution for the promotion of several Armed Forces officers. The request, which will be considered in today's special session, was forwarded to the Senate as is done every year in accordance with the resolutions of 8 and 10 December 1986 issued by the Armed Forces Board of Promotions.

According to the document, Rear Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit will be promoted to the rank of vice admiral; Navy Captain Ignacio Catalino Moreno Carreras will be promoted to Rear Admiral; and Colonels Alfredo Diosnel Zelaya and Alcibiades Ramon Soto Valeau will be promoted to the rank of general.

Colonel Elvio Alonso Martino of the quartermaster corps, and Victor Domiciano Olmedo de Felice of the medical corps, will be promoted to generals. [passage omitted]

Central Bank President on 1987 Exports

PY171510 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Dec 87 p 11

[Text] Central Bank President Cesar Romeo Acosta last night referred to foreign exchange earned by the country's exports. Up to 30 November it had increased by 54 percent, amounting to $329 million, compared to the income for 1986, which amounted to $213 million.

"Following are the figures of some of the products exported up to 30 November 1987:

Soybean and derivatives: $137 million (40 percent of total exports).

Cotton and derivatives: $103 million (30 percent of exports).

Meat and derivatives: $21 million (6 percent of exports).

Lumber in general: $24 million (7 percent of exports).

Others: $58 million (17 percent of total exports).

Acosta also recalled that the income from the Itaipu and Yacyreta hydroelectric plants has also increased: Itaipu's by 155.2 percent when compared to 1986, and Yacyreta's by 152 percent when compared with the same year. [no closing quotemarks as published]

During 1987 the income from Itaipu amounted to $48 million, while the income from Yacyreta amounted to $7 million up to 30 November 1987.

Peru

Saberbein Defends Devaluation Policy

PY161348 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The government has decided to significantly devalue the currency. The inti has been devaluated by 39.4 percent in relation to the U.S. dollar.

The average devaluation is 49.6 percent; for staples it is 25 percent. The exchange readjustment for products such as wheat, corn, soybean oil, and medicine is 23.5 percent. For luxury and nonpriority products,the average readjustment is 91.4 percent. According to the MUC [Mercado Unico de Cambio] (single exchange rate) the rate of exchange on the inti has gone up from 20 to 33 inties per dollar. This is some of the information we have.

This morning we have bee[illegible]red by the presence of Economy and Finance Min[illegible] Gustavo Saberbein.

[Reporter] Good morning minister. My first question concerns why this measure is being implemented. Was there any other choice? What is the purpose of the devaluation.

[Saberbein] This measure, which will benefit the nation, was implemented because we have an inflation rate which is above the international level, and this was deteriorating the value of the inti.

I say that this measure will benefit the nation because there is consensus on this issue among the different political parties. There is multiparty consensus to the idea of recovering the exchange parity, and especially achieving some basic goals which the country needs if it is to continue growing. The measure we have taken, as you pointed out, is not a general measure but a measure aimed at protecting the low income sectors because the devaluation for the implementation of food, medicine, and other needs of the people is in reality from 25 to 30 percent and much higher for luxury and nonessential products.

The government is aiming, through this measure, to reduce imports and increase exports which, in turn, will balance our trade balance deficit. This measure will also stop the loss of international reserves, as we experienced in 1987 and part of 1986. In addition to increasing exports the other medium- and long-range goal is to give preference to our national production, especially to our industry because the devaluation will make foreign products more expensive and will make our national products relatively cheaper.

[Reporter] Minister, the world of politics is full of suspicion; there is a lack of credibility as you know. Apparently the government has not made a thorough study of this measure which was announced yesterday. For example, Richard Webb and former Central Bank President Manuel Moreira said that the devaluation alone is not a solution unless there is a microeconomic and macroeconomic plan. Is this plan under study?

[Saberbein] I would recommend to those two people to read the speech delivered by the president of the Council of Ministers who spoke on behalf of the executive branch. He presented the government plan for 1988, 1989, and 1990. The plan clearly explains the results obtained during the first 2 years of this administration and the measures to be implemented in the second stage of this administration in 1988, 1989, and 1990. This plan was explained to the National Congress and to the nation. The devaluation was not a hasty decision, it was not improvised, it was planned. The plan points out that after 2 years there was great growth in production, consumption, and investments and that a new stage is beginning with the emphasis on productive growth, greater exports, and greater investments for exports and for agricultural and fishing development.

[Reporter] Economics is a very specialized field but most experts say the economy has not been well managed. You usually come with a smile to the news conferences and make us believe we live in the best situation in the world. Is it not true that the housewives are suffering from the government economic policies now that 1 kg of beef costs 150,000 soles and that many people are no longer consuming beef? Is this not the result of a bad economic policy, a plan which was good at the beginning but which later failed?

[Saberbein] No, I do not believe there were no positive results for housewives, for companies which were bankrupt and for workers. I do not believe Peru is in a mess. I believe Peru has a great deal to accomplish and we have enough resources and talent at all levels to push the country ahead. There are problems which we encountered in July 1985 as a result of the implementation of policies and measures by people who are now criticizing the government, policies which lead the country to its worst economic crisis. This crisis caused a setback by 20 years in production per inhabitant, and created the greatest inflation rate in Peruvian history. We have now overcome the great problems of unemployment and underemployment.

I believe the government party, the APRA, came and overcame the crisis and also made profound changes. We are suffering because the economic and social policies of the past have failed. The wrong policies of the last 150 years have not produced results, they neither integrated the country, nor created regional development; they created a very bad distribution of the wealth that they created.

I believe this is very important to point out. The measures we proposed are not only measures to overcome the crisis we inherited, the measures are also aimed at making changes so Peruvians can live better and in harmony. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Israel's Shim'on Peres Arrives for Talks

PY160042 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Montevideo this afternoon. He will meet with President Sanguinetti, Vice President Tarigo, House of Representatives President Victor Cortazzo, and Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias.

Meets Sanguinetti

PY171323 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0330 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Dec (EFE)—Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres today held a private meeting with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti to discuss bilateral relations and the possibility of increasing trade.

President Sanguinetti and Peres also discussed, in a open agenda, other political issues related to international relations in connection with the recent meeting of the Group of Eight held in Acapulco who met to discuss the foreign debt problem and the Central American situation.

Peres, who is paying a 2-day visit to Uruguay, has a busy agenda.

Uruguayan sources indicated that Peres' visit is aimed "at strengthening the links of friendship between the two countries."

In all his public appearances Peres thanked Uruguay for its support 40 years ago, at the United Nations, which helped to create the Israeli state.

Diplomatic sources indicated that during the meetings with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, Vice President Enrique Tarigo and President Sanguinetti, Shim'on Peres insisted on the need to increase trade.

So far this year Uruguay exported products to Israel worth $20 million. This is a small amount considering that Uruguay exported products abroad worth $1.032 billion from January to November 1987.

Israel buys Uruguayan beef but sources of the Uruguayan-Israeli Chamber of Commerce indicated that "beef prices should come down so that Uruguay could compete in the Israeli biddings for the purchase of beef."

Israeli Ambassador Eleazar Palmor said that Peres' visit "is a contribution to strengthen the relations between our peoples."

Julio Bension, president of the Israeli Association of Montevideo, told the local press that "the good relations have been strengthened by the open and democratic position of President Sanguinetti, who represents not just a group but the entire Uruguayan political spectrum. This fact helps to strengthen cultural and economic links."

Briefs

New Officials, Ambassadors Named

Montevideo, 14 Dec(EFE)—Adolfo Castells Mendivel today assumed his duties as Foreign Ministry under secretary. Castells replaces Alberto Rodriguez Nin, who has been appointed as Uruguayan ambassador to Venezuela. Uruguayan Ambassador to the OAS Alfredo Platas, has been named secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. Former secretary general to ALADI, Juan Jose Real has been appointed Uruguayan ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Juan Jose Zorrilla has been named Uruguayan ambassador to the Holy See. [Summary] *[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2357 GMT 14 Dec 87 PY]*

New IDB Loan

The IDB has granted a $19.3 million loan to the General Directorate for Technology Production and Transference [Direccion General de Generacion, Transferencia de Tecnologia] of the Agriculture and Fishing Ministry. This loan will finance a project to improve the production and transference of technology related to agriculture and livestock. [Excerpt] *[Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 11 Dec 87 p 9 PY]*

Venezuela

Crude Oil Production Below OPEC Quota

PA110434 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 2 Dec 87 p 2-8

[Text] The Ministry of Energy and Mines has issued a brief report that states that Venezuela has produced an average of 1,557,000 barrels per day during the first 10 months of 1987 even though its production quota is 1,574,000 barrels per day.

This means crude oil production is adjusted to OPEC's classification and jurisdictional guidelines. Venezuela produces a total of 250,000 barrels per day of condensed [condensados de campo] and liquid gas.

Venezuela's average daily crude oil production, controlled by OPEC, was 1,632,000 barrels per day during the same period in 1986. In other words, an additional 75,000 barrels per day (4.6 percent) was produced during the same period last year. It is also appropriate to mention that the average production for 1986 was 1,622,000 barrels per day; this is 65,000 barrels more than the daily average production this year.

Briefs

New Action Party Secretary

Caracas, 3 Dec (AFP)—The ruling Democratic Action Party (AD) officially replaced its controversial Secretary General Manuel Penalver today. The experienced leader Alejandro Izaguirre was appointed in his place. [Summary] *[Paris AFP in Spanish 0049 GMT 4 Dec 87 PA]*

Suriname

National Assembly Holds First Session

FL151908 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The new National Assembly met for the first time yesterday after last month's general elections. During its first session, Mr Jaggernath Lachmon was unanimously elected chairman of the house. [Names indistinct] were also unanimously elected vice-chairman and secretary, respectively, to represent this body. In his speech, Mr Lachmon said that through the adoption of the Constitution by the people, the general elections, and the elected National Assembly, democracy is now clearly set in place.

Admits Area Representatives

FL151850 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday, in an extraordinary meeting, admitted 10 representatives from the controversial areas of Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, and Marowijne, for the time being, in its body. The assembly also decided that as soon as the situation in the three areas returns to normal, a referendum will be held there to decide whether of not the 10 people have the support of the population in these areas. If not, re-elections will have to be held in these three districts. The government has been given the instruction to normalize the situation in the war-striken areas as soon as possible so that the referendum can be held there.

Herrenberg Credits Bouterse for Reforms

FL151925 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Much of what has been achieved in the field of democracy and the establishment of a constitutional state is due to Commander Bouterse and the leadership of the National Army. This was stated to reporters yesterday after the meeting of the National Assembly by director of the cabinet of the government leader Henk Herrenberg. Herrenberg added we all know this was reached under very difficult internal and external circumstances. He added that the commander has made a great personal contribution and gave active support to the realization of democratic reforms. Compared to Haiti for example, said Herrenberg, we have succeeded in consolidating national unity in a peaceful way.